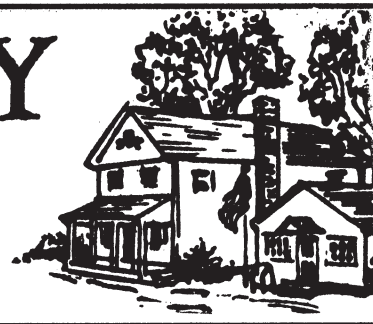




# MONTEREY NEWS

July 2006  
VOLUME XXXVI • Number 7



## The Town

### Farewell to a Longtime Town Employee

On Monday, June 26, the Select Board hosted a farewell party for Judi Kales, the Select Board Secretary since 1973. State Representative Smitty Pignatelli stopped by to present Kales with a citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives. "News of your retirement got all the way to the statehouse," said Pignatelli as he complimented Kales on her thirty-three years of dedicated service to the Monterey

Select Board. A sizable crowd of people Kales has worked with filled the room to say thank you, goodbye, and good luck.

### Around Town Hall

Town Secretary Melissa Noe asked the Select Board for guidance on tag sale permits, which caused Select Board member Wayne Burkhart to ask about the genesis of the town bylaw regarding tag sales. Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier said that the rule was put into place years ago after a resident had a tag sale extending over many weekends.

Noe reported on her conversation with a member of the Massachusetts Ethics Board about the allegations at Town Meeting that payments to her for multiple town jobs constituted "double dipping." Not so, said the state Ethics Board. Massachusetts allows towns with population less than 3,000 to pay employees for more than one job without danger of ethics violations. Following her report, it was suggested that any lingering suspicion of such a violation be eliminated by revising her title to Town Secretary/ZBA Secretary/Board of Health Secretary/etc.



Elaine Berroli

*Monterey Kindergarten class of 2005–2006 (l.–r.): Randan Ziegler, Brighton Sawyer, Evan Sylbert, Adam Puntin, Hunter Hassett, Sam Johnson (front), Ariana Saporito, Marya Makuc, Tagan Mundy, Jack Morrison. (See pp. 14–17.)*

Select Board chair Michael Storch discussed the need for greater security in Noe's office, and suggested that a deadbolt be placed on the door.

Noe told the Select Board that Town Treasurer Patricia Mielke said it takes two business days to process direct deposits. Traditionally, town employees are paid on Wednesdays. With direct deposit, though, their salaries will not be available for use until Friday. After a discussion of various options, it was suggested that perhaps the treasurer could prepare the salary reports on Fridays, submitting them for warrant signing to the Select Board on Mondays; then the salaries could be deposited so that the funds would be available to employees on Wednesday (or payday).

On June 26, the Select Board appointed a long list of town officers.

Storch thanked Pignatelli for all of his efforts on behalf of Monterey. When Storch asked him about the state retirement fund, Pignatelli told the board that Massachusetts is one of the last states to

preclude government employees from receiving social security even if they paid into the system before working for state government. After listening to a barrage of questions about how, when, and why this punitive interpretation persists, Pignatelli said that the state has appointed a "blue ribbon" panel to investigate. "The retirement system in this state is a mess," he concluded.

### Director of Operations

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported that during June a lot of repairs were done to roads damaged over the winter. Drainage and other work began on Sandisfield Road after residents were notified. Forbes plans to have his crew work on Fairview later this summer.

Forbes and Storch attended a meeting with representatives of the Massachusetts Highway Department, National Grid, Verizon, and other companies involved in the River Road bridge project, which, so it is said, will be completed by September 2007.

A state elevator inspector visited Town Hall in early June to test the elevator's alarm system. After noting violations that need remedying, including pumping out the elevator shaft, he issued a temporary permit 90-day permit for Town Hall.

The Select Board announced that the July 17th evening Select Board meeting will concentrate on the philosophy and details of winter road maintenance. Residents are encouraged to attend this meeting when Forbes will present infor-

mation on the Highway Department's use of salt and sand.

Noting four dead trees on the public land adjoining the berm on Route 23, the Select Board asked Tree Warden Roger Tryon to explain his tree planting and maintenance policies. Tryon reported that he had not planted trees under wires, although there is evidence that some of the trees are, in fact, very close to wires. Tryon said that he doesn't always know where public property ends and private property begins. The Select Board asked him to inform abutters when trees are planted on public land adjacent to their property.

When Tryon asked if the Tree Warden had to provide workmen's compensation if someone was hired to cut brush or take vines down, he was told that Monterey requires that anyone who works as a subcontractor in town must have workmen's compensation. Treasurer Pat Mielke told the Select Board that the town requires subcontractors to carry their own workmen's comp, but because questions remained, Town Counsel Jerry Scully will be asked for guidance.

Peter Murkett commended Forbes and his crew for the efficacy of their work on storm damage on Harmon Road. Nonetheless, Murkett remains concerned about the culverts and road gravel, and thus asked if Forbes could meet with him to see what can be done.

Tim Lovett, a local resident and realtor, will report on the market value of Bally Gally so it can be rented at the appropriate price.

### David's Tipi

by Eileen Lawlor



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Gould Farm has made arrangements to keep the intersection of Curtis and Gould Roads clean after their cows cross the road.

Burkhart offered to respond to a letter of complaint from Beartown Mountain Road resident Monica Webb about the washout of ditches on Fairview Road.

During a discussion about the overcrowded vault for stored records, Forbes recommended strongly against installing a keypad for access to these records. Noting that this vault is under the jurisdiction of the Town Clerk, Forbes remarked that no one person can be responsible for security if more than one person has access to the room.

Since all boards and commissions must appoint a records liaison to clean out the overflow in the vault, Storch offered to fill this position for the Select Board. All other town boards and commissions must appoint a records liaison so that shelves can be installed in the vault. Assistant Town Clerk Linda Thorpe offered to be the liaison for the liaisons when the Town Clerk is unavailable.

The key to the vault that Melissa Noe retained so people could access the



Michael Storch

*Judi Kales celebrates her retirement with some of Select Board members she has worked with (l.-r.): Jed Lipsky, Peter Brown, Jon Sylbert, Kales, Michael Storch, Fred Chapman, Wayne Burkhart.*

records in the absence of the Town Clerk was returned to Police Chief Gareth Backhaus.

Storch asked Forbes to work with Leroy Thorpe on the question of who is responsible for mowing Greene Park, behind Town Hall, and cleaning up the town beach. Burkhart suggested that the Select Board gain a better understanding of what Thorpe has in mind.

Forbes reported that he has a written request from the full-time employees to

meet with the Select Board on their salaries and benefits.

### Police Chief

Items on Police Chief Gareth Backhaus's weekly reports to the Select Board included a tree down on wires on Blue Hill Road; motion sensors that lit up a house on Swann Road; vandalism on Blue Hill Road by the entrance to Benedict Pond; various and sundry false alarms; an abandoned 911 call on Fox Hill Road; a lockout

>

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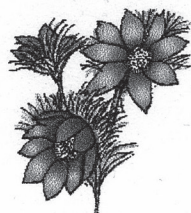
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at the Lake Buel launch; a lockout at the General Store and another one on Sylvan Road; a bear on Bidwell Road; a motor vehicle accident on Pixley Road; a lost (and then found) camera; a suspicious vehicle on Blue Hill Road; responses to requests for assistance from Great Barrington and New Marlborough; power outages; larceny by check; a missing person from Gould Farm; a complaint by a Hupi Road resident of theft of stones from her stone wall; recovery of a lost hiker in Beartown; and criminal charges with penalties of up to \$1500 for illegal garbage dumping on Swann Road. The department was also able to trace a harassing phone call.

Backhaus asked that the Police Department be notified if anyone sees a 1990 brown four-door Chevrolet sedan bearing license plate AXSJ007 from Ontario, Canada. The owner of the car parked it in someone's driveway and then prowled around two backyards.

Discussions continue on the nature of the police presence downtown on summer weekend mornings. A potential solution to the perennial complaint about insufficient parking space on Saturday and Sunday mornings is to request that those attending the coffee club carpool to free

up spaces for those who just make quick trips to the General Store. Kenn Basler, owner of the Monterey General Store, told the Select Board that he appreciates the police presence on summer weekend mornings.

After reading reports of two break-ins in Egremont, Storch asked Backhaus if Monterey would be able to use a reverse 911 system to notify town residents. Backhaus will investigate the cost of this service.

At a Regional Emergency Planning Commission meeting at Fairview Hospital that Backhaus attended, the main order of business was a safety fair that will be held in Great Barrington in late August.

Backhaus got two bids from junk yards for the retired 1997 police cruiser.

Storch asked Backhaus to sort through boxes stored in Town Hall's basement because storage room is necessary for other purposes. Storch also reminded Backhaus that the chief should report to the Select Board about town bylaws concerning alarms.

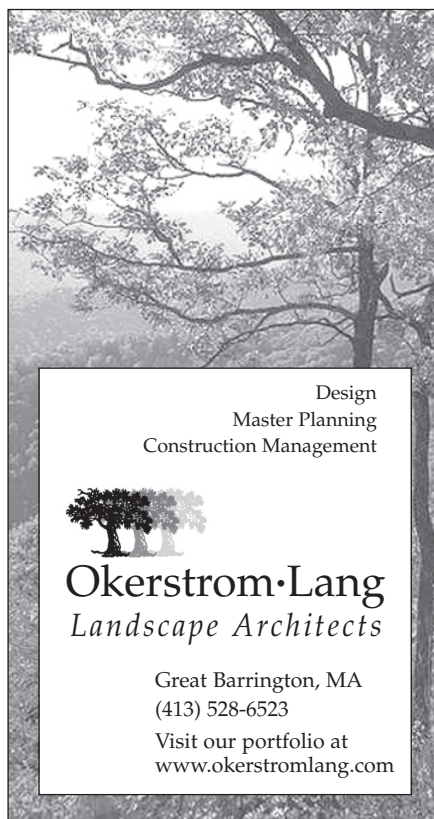
## Education

School superintendent Valerie Spriggs and Monterey school representative Deborah D. Mielke told the Select Board that the engineering company EDM will visit the school in Monterey to visually evaluate its physical condition. The company will provide a detailed report that includes


an evaluation of the school's compliance with state building codes, with recommendations for immediate action as well as long-term plans. Each suggestion will be accompanied by a budget and a priority ranking.

Spriggs told the Select Board that she is doing her best to recruit more children to the Monterey school. In early June, only three children were enrolled in the forthcoming kindergarten. Later in the month it was announced that the school district intends to offer both kindergarten and first grade at the school so there will be enough children to warrant keeping the school open in the 2006-2007 year. Spriggs noted that kindergarten enrollment varies considerably, and although the number is quite small for the coming year, there is a larger pool of children available for the following year.

To help recruit children to the school for fall enrollment, Deborah D. Mielke asked the Town Clerk for a list of the names and addresses of parents with children between the ages of four and six. Assistant Town Clerk Linda Thorpe relayed to the Select Board a message from the Town Clerk that Town Counsel Jerry Scully had incorrectly said that these names could be released. The Town Clerk's office, however, reported that state laws protecting children from pedophiles prohibited the Clerk from furnishing this information. Thorpe then



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offered to address whatever mailing the school district wanted to send.

## Fire Chief

Responding to the Select Board's query about possible fire hazards in the Town Clerk's office, Fire Chief Ray Tryon said that shelves should be installed to hold the voluminous files currently in boxes.

Tryon reported that almost all of the Fire Department has passed the sixteen-hour course for first responders. The remaining course work will be done during the winter. After Tryon told the Select Board that the Fire Department will go over budget because of all the first responder training, Storch suggested that he inform the Finance Committee of the overage.

## Building Commissioner

At the June 12 Select Board meeting, Building Commissioner Don Torrico reported that he had notified a variety of realtors that the "for sale" signs they had posted on public property were a violation of local bylaws. After his notification, most, if not all, of the signs were removed.

Questions about the Building Commissioner's definition of a dwelling unit persist. Torrico believes that his definition clarifies the issue, but newly elected Select Board member Wayne Burkhart, a venerable former member of the Planning Board, noted that a majority of that board disagrees with the definition. After Torrico told the Select Board that he believes the definition of a dwelling unit comes from the state, not via local ordinance, Storch suggested that the Building Commissioner

and Planning Board meet to discuss the issue in further detail.

Torrico reported on the derelict property at 39 Sylvan Road that has been vacant for three years. Although the owner was sent a certified letter by the Board of Health, nothing has been done to it, rendering the structure subject for condemnation.

Torrico said that in response to Planning Board chair Maggie Leonard's question about building height definitions, he gave her the answer from state guidelines.

## Cultural Council

Joe Baker reported to the Select Board that Debra B. Mielke's term of office on the Council had expired and noted that they would miss her. Katherine Roberts agreed to replace Mielke. Baker asked the Select Board to confirm its interest in a photo contest on September 2nd to supply the town with photos for its website and a calendar. If the Board is no longer interested in a calendar, the Cultural Council might move the contest to Memorial Day weekend 2007.

## This and That

A sign at the town beach states that a pass is required to use the beach, although Town Hall has no such passes. Leroy Thorpe, chairman of the Park Commission, prefers that the notice about beach passes remain on display to discourage nonresidents from using the beach. Noting that town residents who come in to comply with the sign are annoyed when they learn that such a pass is not only

not required, but not even available, the Select Board sent letters to all members of the Park Commission asking for their opinions on this matter.

Finance Committee member Debra B. Mielke told the Select Board that her committee needs a letter from Building Commissioner Don Torrico to approve the transfer of funds from one line of the Building Department's account to pay Town Secretary Melissa Noe for her work for that department.

Planning Board chair Maggie Leonard reported that with Wayne Burkhart's retirement from that board, there is an open seat. She has had expressions of interest on filling this vacancy from three residents, who will be interviewed by the Board. Leonard volunteered to be the records liaison for the Planning Board.

National Grid representative Don Nutting talked with the Select Board about the placement of a new pole on River Road during the time the bridge is being repaired.

Stan Ross, one of the town assessors, informed the Town Accountant that Linda Hamill, clerk for the assessors, needs a new computer, so funds will be switched to that department's account to cover the cost.

The August 21st evening meeting of the Select Board will address town bylaws.

Raymond Hotte of Raytel Communications will provide Town Hall with new telephone service.

— Laurily K. Epstein

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## Our Town Voted Best Organized

Is it about freedom? Crime? Paving town roads? Or something about the dump? Or schools? No, the hottest issue around town for many people nowadays is “What are we going to do with Our Town’s records!” The Select Board Chair is getting impatient, the Town Clerk says we need more security and protection against flood, several offices don’t have room for back records that need to be kept, and it’s hard to find a solution that organizes everything and puts us on track for the new century.

Thing is, some people have been thinking about the records problem for years now. We used to have books lining the shelves in the old Town Office above the Monterey School. Then some fifteen years ago we moved to the Monterey Grange Hall. We built a small addition for several offices (what elevator?). Then, we built a larger addition with more offices and (ta-da!) a records room. Problem solved. No, not so fast! We’ve still got records in the Town Hall, in the town garage offices, in boxes on the floor, (in people’s house offices?), and the town’s records room is already close to full! Some committees still hardly know where all their information is stored; some books and references are not possible to access when we need them.

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*A large snapping turtle got a claw locked into a hole on a town culvert on Hupi Road at noon on May 4th. Officer Kyle Whalley of the Monterey Police Dept. used the clever tactic of lowering a pole near the turtle’s snout; when it clamped its jaws on the pole it was raised, taking the pressure off the trapped claw, and then gently lowered into the stream below. (A big thank you to Jules Dahlman for the report and photos!)*



Remember—we’re a democracy, so we’re all involved. You and your neighbors are all committee members, or chair-people, or secretaries, or tax collectors, or chiefs, so we all generate records for the town, which must be kept. We have to help find a way to get these papers and books together. We need a plan.

Here’s the plan: Committees will get their stuff together in more or less one place in the Town Hall—if they don’t have a private office they will ask for files and such in the big meeting room. They will choose a records liaison (I think it’s called) from their members. All offices will make their

needs known; maybe we’ll have another seminar (Monday night meeting of boards and offices). The Select Board and Town Secretary will work with the Town Clerk about retention schedules (how long do we keep which records?) and locations, and we’ll just see where we get in the next year or so. Don’t bother us yet with the details—“What happens if the basement floods?” “Do we need a new records vault?” “Can we rent space on Dan Fox Drive with the Federal Government?”

Pretty soon Our Town will be the best organized little town you’ve ever seen!

— Wayne Burkhart

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## Community Center News A Month of Site Planning

Every Wednesday night in June, the Wilson McLaughlin House Committee got together to discuss site planning. Site planning has to happen before we can come up with a concrete plan for the house, and the architect's "site planners" presented a number of alternatives. We have each spent time at the site to get a feel for the property and imagine folks coming and going. We want to do a good job; there is nothing more frustrating (and costly) than having to modify or correct errors made as a result of a lack of forethought.

In order to think all this out, we have to get ideas flowing. For example, one of the recent questions has been, Where is the best place to drive into the property and where will we park the cars? It seems like an easy question, but it's not. I know this from experience here at Rawson Brook Farm. I never would have guessed that the farm focus on some days would become all about parking, but it does. The quality of the goat cheese is influenced by where you park at Rawson Brook Farm. No kidding! But we can discuss that some other time. This is how the Community Center discussion progresses:

Shall we enter and have the parking to the south of the Community Center? Advantages are that the parking area stays freer of snow and ice and is a warm, inviting place to get out of your car. Disadvantages are that you would have to walk or

climb up to get to the center and while at the center, the warm southern view would include a parking lot.

Shall we have the parking on the north/northeast side? It might be less in the sun and colder but closer to the building, making for easier access, and it makes use of land that isn't in what we might think of as the front of the building. Then the discussion drifts to the various aspects of entering a building from the front or back and what then defines the front and the back ... and you can imagine that it is soon 10 p.m. and time to go home.

The next week we come at it from a different angle: How much parking do we actually need? Should we have one big lot or can we have several different places to park? Can we have a dedicated parking area for, let's say, fifteen cars and then other occasional parking areas for times when there is a bigger event happening? If we put a temporary parking area in a spot where we envision future building expansion to occur, is that a wise use of space? And at this point in the discussion, if we are not very, very careful, we might find ourselves drifting and starting to talk about future building expansion, a topic we do need to thoroughly explore, but ... maybe next week.

While we are busy making these decisions, community members are enthusiastically rallying round the Community Center project. Saturday mornings, look on the porch of the General Store for the Monterey Piecemakers selling raffle

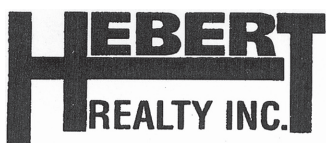
## Bunnies in the Greensward

The Monterey Piecemakers have been busy piecing, embroidering, and quilting yet another beautiful creation. This twin-sized quilt entitled "Bunnies in the Greensward" will be raffled off on Sunday, October 15, with the proceeds donated to the Monterey Community Center. You don't have to be present to be the lucky winner! Look for the volunteers selling raffle tickets on the porch of the General Store. Tickets are \$2 each, or a book of 6 for \$10.

tickets for their latest quilt to benefit the Community Center. Eileen Lawlor has printed up notecards and framed prints of her glorious photograph of David McAllester's tipi; these are for sale at the General Store, with all proceeds going to the Community Center project. And read elsewhere in this *News* (see p. 9) about the tag sale being organized by another set of volunteers headed up by Laury Epstein. Save us your Best Stuff!

Thank you to all who have returned the survey — we are still hoping to get more responses, so send it in the mail, drop it in the box at the General Store or at the Town Hall, or fill it out online: [www.ccmonterey.org](http://www.ccmonterey.org).

— Susan Sellew



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## Fire Company's Annual Steak Roast July 29th

The Monterey Fire Company will hold its 29th Annual Steak Roast on Saturday, July 29, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the firehouse pavilion. The menu will include the usual choice of grilled steak or swordfish, plus fresh corn on the cob, tossed green salad, baked Idaho potato, cake, and ice cream. Soda, beer, wine, hot dogs, and hamburgers will also be available. And, as always, there will be live music and other entertainment, as well as good conversation with your Monterey neighbors.

Tickets are \$20 per person. Note that there will be no ticket sales at the door, so tickets must be purchased in advance; you can get tickets from any Monterey firefighter or at the Tea Room across from the General Store on Saturday and Sunday mornings during July.

This is a delicious way to support our fire company and the vital service the volunteer firefighters provide.

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## Cultural Council Plans Shindig, Photo Contest, & More

The Cultural Council is planning its Labor Day weekend event, to be held this year on Saturday, September 2. Each year the council closes out the summer season with a community event at the Firehouse Pavilion, and over the past few years it has alternated the art demonstration day, How's It Made, with Shindig, a musical gathering and picnic. Last year there was a record crowd for How's it Made, and Saturday, September 2nd, promises to be another great family day in Monterey for another Shindig—lots of music, a huge community potluck, and a contra dance. Watch the *Monterey News* in August for details, and in the meantime, save the date!

Memorial Day 2007 seems a long way off, but save the date for that weekend too, as the council is planning a Monterey photo exhibition and contest. Photos must be taken in Monterey and all photographers are welcome to participate. Entrants will have at least one photo hung in the show (chosen at the discretion of the jury). A prospectus will be available in early 2007, but as the seasons role around and you enjoy the beauty of our town, keep the contest in mind over coming months and take your camera along.

The council thanks Richard Sanderson and Dave Galiup of Springfield, who led the Astronomy Night gathering on May 26th. The community room of the meetinghouse was standing room only

## Free Health Screening, Help with MassHealth Enrollment

On Tuesday, July 11, Healthy Communities Access Project (HCAP) will host a free health screening and MassHealth enrollment session at Monterey Town Hall. The event is scheduled from 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. The Southern Berkshire HCAP team will be available to answer questions regarding MassHealth, provide referral information, free health screenings, health education materials, and giveaways. Any uninsured or underinsured resident of Massachusetts will have the opportunity to apply for MassHealth that day. If you would like an appointment or have any questions, please contact 413-644-0104 ext. 16.

for the enthusiastic crowd who watched an hour-long slide show and introductory lecture about the night sky, enhanced with many questions from children and adults alike. Throughout the talk, organizers were stepping out to monitor the semi-cloudy sky, and just in time, the clouds cleared and the group was able to proceed down the street to the ball field behind Town Hall to view a perfectly clear starlight sky. Several telescopes focused on different planets were set up—Saturn's rings were truly awesome—and many brought binoculars. It was a completely satisfying evening, and the council hopes to have other similar astronomy nights in the future.



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## Donate Your Best Stuff! Tag Sale to Benefit Monterey Community Center

Although the Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House (FWMH) tag sale is two months away, we've already collected dozens of wonderful items, including jewelry, small pieces of furniture, toys, rugs, afghans, paintings and framed photographs, and many swanky handbags.

As you look around your house wondering what to donate to this excellent community project, think about pottery, collectibles, antiques, signed pieces of jewelry, vintage handbags, quilts, patchwork blankets, Arts and Crafts or Mission Oak furniture, clocks and watches, working kitchen utensils and small appliances, garden art, sculpture and statuary, and more! Much more!

We'd like lightly used items, and those tending to the high end, not discards or scraps. And please, no clothing! And all books should be donated to the Monterey Library.

You can drop off your items at the firehouse pavilion on Saturday, July 8; Saturday, July 22; and Sunday, August 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. All donations are tax deductible, and you will receive a receipt for your donations.

This being the Twenty-first century, the tag sale is using Ebay for advance purchase on selected items. By early July, you can buy items donated to the tag sale on the Ebay store run by The Monterey General Store. Just go to [montereystore.com](http://montereystore.com) and

## Open Meetings on Tax Maps

At the June 2005 Annual Town Meeting the residents of Monterey approved funds for the aerial photographic mapping of the town that could be rendered into digital high-resolution tax maps. The Board of Assessors retained Cartographic Associates, Inc., of New Hampshire for the project. They have now finished the aerial photography and the placing of all real estate parcel boundaries (obtained directly from deeds) onto the digitized photographs. This composite, together with the Mass GIS data, will allow the town to create maps that reveal the position of each parcel relative to other geographic characteristics (e.g., roads, streams, ponds, wetlands, soil type, land use, and hydrologic and topographic data). Representatives from Cartographic Associates, Inc., will hold open meetings at the Town Hall on Friday, July 14, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday, July 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to review and demonstrate the capabilities of our new system. All are invited.

— Bob Lazzarini

then click on "ebay" and you're on your way. All proceeds from these Ebay sales go to the FWMH tag sale total, save for a small amount to the General Store for their expenses. Thank you Kenn Basler!

For more information, please call Laury Epstein, 528-0577; Carol de Harak, 528-3416; or Sharon Magruder, 528-4315.

## Monterey Library Events

**Saturday, July 1: John Porcino**, storyteller, folksinger, and musician, will celebrate summer and the joys of reading for children and their families. Free, 11 a.m., cosponsored by Cultural Council.

**Saturday, July 8: Doctor Marma-laid**, acclaimed puppeteer and storyteller, will inspire young readers and entertain children of all ages. Free, 11 a.m., Monterey Library, Main Road, Monterey.

**Saturday, July 15: Annabelle and Carol Edelman** present a program of flying, creeping, crawling buggy stories and a take-home craft activity. Suitable for ages 4 and up. Free, 11 a.m., Monterey Library, Main Road, Monterey.

**Saturday, July 22: Roger Tinknell and Davis Bates**, singing storytellers, will take children and their families on a participatory multicultural musical adventure. Free, 11 a.m., cosponsored by Monterey Cultural Council.

**Saturday, July 29: Used book sale** to benefit Monterey Library. Bargains galore, dealers welcome. 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monterey Library lawn, Main Road, Monterey. We welcome volunteers to come at 8 a.m. to help carry out the books and set up. Think of all the great books you can preview.



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## LakeFest Fireworks Gift of Anonymous Angel

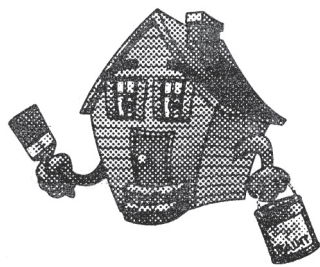
What a turnaround!

First it looked like LakeFest 2006 was not going to happen due to a vacuum in the volunteer department. At the last minute, some able-bodied Montereyans stepped up to fill that void. And that's not all! In last month's *Monterey News* we explained that due to this year's smaller budget there would be no fireworks, which in the past have cost upwards of \$5000. The article went on to add, "unless some Good Samaritan would like to cough up the dough to light up the skies." Guess what? You guessed it! One of your very generous neighbors, a Friend of Lake Garfield, has donated the fireworks funds.

LakeFest 2006 will delight all on August 19th. The Town Beach will host a feast of activities for kids and adults alike. Highlights will include free motorboat rides, fancy-free kids' activities, the luscious potluck dinner, the inimitable David Grover & the Big Band, and fireworks to cap off the evening. More details to come ...

And don't forget the next FLG meeting: Saturday, July 15, 9:30 at the Firehouse. Results of the spring lake assessment with the Lake Steward and our first use of the LAPA underwater camera will be part of our discussion.

— Hy Rosen



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## Heritage Foodways Weekend at Bidwell House

Four local residents will be part of a team exploring the colonial heritage of agriculture and food on July 22nd and 23rd at the Bidwell House Museum's most popular program event: Heritage Foodways Weekend. Ruth Green, landscape designer, and Donald Welsh, student of colonial cooking, Esther Heffernan, Bidwell House Caretaker and curatorial assistant, and Morwenna Boyd, home-schooled student and a Berkshire Taconic Foundation summer intern, are Monterey residents.

On Saturday the program will start with a lecture and book signing at 1:30 p.m., featuring Keith Stavely and Kathleen Fitzgerald, husband and wife authors of award winning *America's Founding Food*. The book, published by University of North Carolina Press, chronicles the culinary and cultural history of New England food in the colonial and federal period. Based on their vast scholarly research, the authors recount social change as status was measured by foods eaten in the colonies. Based on stories and recipes from generations of New Englanders, the lecture will include the first encounter by the English colonists with Indian corn in the seventeenth century, correct misconceptions, and make a case for plain, homegrown and home-cooked meals since "Good things come from simple living." The Bidwell House was a parsonage built by Reverend Adonijah Bidwell; the book also includes dishes for special occasions such as the minister's wood-spell and election cakes. Recipes will be shared.

## Dog Etiquette

Lately there has been a problem with people not cleaning up after their dogs when they are walked in Bidwell Park.

The Park Commission is requesting that all citizens please clean up after their dogs in order for other citizens to enjoy a clean environment. We all enjoy our dogs, but it is essential that we clean up after them in order to keep our recreational areas sanitary. And please remember that dogs are not allowed at the town beach or in Greene Park.

The members of the Park Commission sincerely appreciate your cooperation.

The fee for the lecture is \$10 per person. The book will be available for purchase at the book signing, and light refreshments will be served.

On Sunday, Donald Welsh will present a lecture, followed by a tour, demonstration, and tasting of foods that would have been prepared by the Bidwell family in the mid-eighteenth century in the authentic Keeping Room at 11:00 a.m. In addition to the Monterey residents, the staff will include director Martha Dailey and curatorial assistant and chief docent Joanna Jennings. Participants will experience what it was like to grow, harvest, cook, and preserve food in colonial Massachusetts. Antique kitchen equipment from the collection and from the new exhibit on woodenware will be utilized. Authentic colonial recipes will be used for the tasting extravaganza.

Sunday's event is by reservation and the charge will be \$35 per person. For more information: 413-528-6888.

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## Historian Bernard Drew to Speak at Historical Society

On Friday, July 21, at 7 p.m. local historian Bernard A. Drew will address the Monterey Historical Society on "Cuffee van Schaick, Warren Davis and the African American Experience in the Berkshire Woods." The free talk will take place in the Knox Museum wing of the Monterey Library, and the public is cordially invited.

Mr. Drew has written thirty-two books, including a 656-page history of Great Barrington in 1999. His fourth reference book for the publisher Libraries Unlimited is *100 Most Popular African American Authors*, due to be published in November. His *Dr. Du Bois Rebuilds His Dream House*, exploring little-known aspects of the freedom activist's life in Great Barrington, will be available this summer. He works as a part-time copy editor and page designer for *The Lakeville Journal* in Connecticut. His "Our Berkshires" columns have appeared in *The Berkshire Eagle* for a decade.



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## Bidwell House Cocktail Party

A summer cocktail party sponsored by the Bidwell House Museum will be held on Saturday, July 15, at the home of Bob and Ginny Duffy at Rock Ridge, 48 Tyringham Road in Monterey, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The event is planned to commemorate the historical beginnings of Monterey as part of Tyringham Township No. 1 and will focus on the years from 1737 to 1763. The first town center was on the land now occupied by the museum; the house was built in 1750 when Reverend Adonijah Bidwell started his 34-year tenure as the first minister in the settlement. When he arrived, he had already been chaplain on two engagements for the British against the French at Louisburg. When he started to build his home he had to contend with distance from Hartford and some hostility from neighboring Indians in a sparsely settled community. Reverend Bidwell had five punch bowls and forty-eight chairs in his home; the cocktail party is a reflection of the good times to overcome adversity.

The party will be an opportunity to enjoy a summer evening in a historic home which boasts of a spacious porch overlooking Lake Garfield. Rock Ridge was built in 1898 by wealthy financier Curtis J. Judd. The architects of the home were Patton and Fisher from Chicago, the designers of Oberlin College. When the house was built, the entire town of Monterey had a listed value of \$225,000 and the Judd estate was valued at \$45,000.

Another historic link occurred when Frederick Law Olmsted, the founder of American landscape architecture in the last half of the nineteenth century, visited Rock Ridge while he was contemplating the

## From the Tax Collector

The fiscal year 2007 real estate and personal property bills for the **first quarter** have been mailed and are due **August 1, 2006**. If you did not receive yours, please contact the Tax Collector's office (413-644-0299 x17). These bills are preliminary and list the first two quarters based on last year's tax rate. You will receive another bill for the second quarter in October (due November 1). However, if you wish, you may pay the first two quarters now. The actual tax bills with the new rate will be mailed by January 1, 2007, showing the third and fourth quarter amounts due February 1 and May 1, 2007.

— Mari Enoch

design of the Biltmore Estate in Ashville, North Carolina. He wrote, "I arrived at Rock Ridge after ten hours on bad roads from the Barrington Train Station." Olmsted was already famous for the beautification projects that resulted in Central Park in New York City and now he was working on his last great project with the unlimited funds of George Vanderbilt on his 120,000 acres. In addition to making a grand forest of 80,000 acres, Olmsted surprised Vanderbilt by adding a lake called Bass Pond. No doubt his visit to Rock Ridge was the final inspiration for this added dimension.

Rock Ridge has fourteen acres overlooking Lake Garfield; in the Gilded Age, it was considered a Berkshire Cottage in the Adirondack Style. All are invited to make a reservation for this historic cocktail party honoring the demographic beginnings of the town and the continued architectural history of a Monterey treasure. Tickets are \$35 per person; call 413-528-6888.

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## Library Notes

July 1st is the start of our summer reading program, "What's buzzin' at your library," sponsored by the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the Monterey Library, and the Monterey General Store. Children ages four to twelve may participate by completing reading logs and earning ice cream from the General Store. Free water bottles to all who sign up while supplies last. There are coupons available to area attractions as well.

We are also hosting a series of programs for children at 11a.m. on the first four Saturdays in July (see p. 9). The Cultural Council is cosponsoring John Porcino on July 1st and Roger Tinknell and Davis Bates on July 22nd. Doctor Marmalaid will be performing on July 8th, and on July 15th Annabel and Carol Edelman will read stories and have a craft activity as well. Reading logs can be filled out until August 15th, so you don't have to start July 1.

We now have a museum pass to MassMOCA, which joins our passes to the Bidwell House, Norman Rockwell Museum, Hancock Shaker Village, the Berkshire Museum, and the Clarke Art Institute. They can be checked out like a book.

We are still looking for any works of art, including photographs, of the library, which we could exhibit at our celebration

of the 75th anniversary of the construction of our library. We'll be celebrating this Columbus Day Weekend with a program for the kids as well as exhibits of the history of the library.

Please don't forget our annual book sale on Saturday July 29th—donations will be accepted. This fundraiser benefits our Memorial Fund, which is used for special projects. Come early at 8 a.m. to help carry the books out and preview the bargains.

A very special thanks to Kate Basler, who met with the kindergarten in the library every other week during the school year, entertaining and teaching the kids with her guitar and storytelling experience. At the last meeting they went to Bidwell Park and looked for teddy bears after reading *The Teddy Bear's Picnic*.

## Recent acquisitions

### Adult Fiction

*Brookland*, Emily Barton  
*Cold Moon*, Jeffrey Deaver  
*Foreign Correspondent*, Alan Furst  
*Husband*, Dean Koontz  
*Iceberg*, Rebecca Johns  
*JPOD*, Douglas Coupland  
*Killer Dreams*, Iris Johansen  
*O Henry Prize Stories 2006*  
*Piece of My Heart*, Peter Robinson  
*The Poe Shadow*, Matthew Pearl  
*Possibility of an Island*, Michel

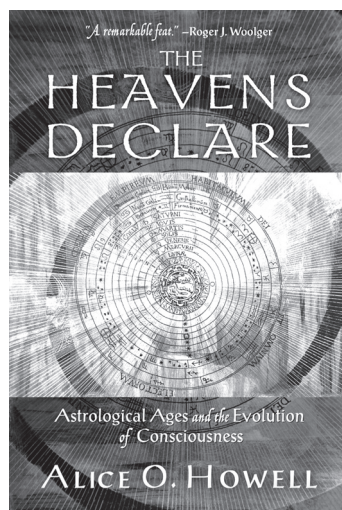
Houellebeq  
*Rapids*, Tim Parks  
*Whole World Over*, Julia Glass

## Adult Nonfiction

*The \$64 Tomato*, Will Alexander  
*In Search of Memory*, Eric Kandel  
*Myths, Lies, and Downright Stupidity*, John Stossel  
*Sheetrock and Shellac: A Thinking Persons Guide to the Art and Science of Home Improvement*, David Owen  
*Benedict Arnold's Navy*, James Nelson  
*Houses of the Berkshires, 1870–1930*, Richard Jackson and Cornelia Brooke Gilder  
*Great Barrington, Great Town, Great History*, Bernard Drew  
*Guests of the Ayatollah*, Mark Bowden  
*Infamous Scribblers: The Founding Fathers and the Rowdy Beginnings of American Journalism*, Eric Burns

## Children's

*Halfmoon Investigations*, Eoin Colfer  
*Amelia's Book of Notes and Note Passing*, Marissa Moss  
*Black Duck*, Janet Lisle  
*Night of the New Magicians*, Mary Osborne  
*Olivia Forms a Band*, Ian Falconer  
*Where's My Sock*, Joyce Dunbar  
*Sand Dollar Summer*, Kimberly Jones  
— Mark Makuc



## Alice O. Howell's new book!

Alice O. Howell's view of astrology as symbolic of archetypal processes provides a tool for the deep healing of the psyche. In tracing the evolution of consciousness through five of the great astronomical Ages of the past 10,000 years, she presents a bold synthesis of history, religions, mythology, and Jung's concept of the collective unconscious.

*Alice O. Howell has a mature and inspired knowledge of the greatest importance for our times. She has been a guide to me for over twenty years.*

— Thomas Moore, author of *Care of the Soul*

*Full of humanity, warmth, and feeling. Howell's rich prose and vivid images make reading her an act of experiencing.*

— Robert Hand, author of *Horoscope Symbols*

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## An Inconvenient Truth

Al Gore's inconvenient truth is that the environment and Earth which sustain us are rapidly being destroyed. However inconvenient this truth may seem to us, we should be thanking Gore for his dedication to this issue and for his relentless effort to educate the global public. The movie is tastefully done, giving insight to Gore's history with the environmental movement dating back to his college years and his personal campaign to present to people around the world the facts of global climate change. The movie uses a great deal of footage from the power point presentation Gore has created to aid his lecture, but it is nicely broken up by other elements. It is significant to note that Gore's ultimate quest is to discern what prevents the public from acknowledging this inconvenient truth. Once he identifies these blocks, he then seeks to address them relying on empirical evidence, and he does this quite effectively.

Gore's presentation has photographs spanning twenty-five years that show the extensive melting of glaciers, graphs that show warming trends, and in one slide a scale balances the Earth and some gold bars. When it appears, Gore remarks how some people are excited about the prospect of having the gold bars. Then he strokes his chin in mock contemplation, making fun of the obvious: no Earth means not having any gold. What makes people deny this truth? In the simplest form, it's because acknowledging it requires a life-

style change for each and every one of us that is often inconvenient to our current short-term goals and everyday lives. Our demands as individuals and society help fuel the habits that are causing this climate shift. I wrote a final paper this semester on what U.S. obligations to promote human rights and environmental protection should be. I was supposed to discuss what role I thought the U.S. should take in these areas. Although I'm far from an expert on any of these topics, I feel strongly that as the only superpower in a world shared by over 150 countries and six billion people we cannot just try to lead in select areas and look for unconditional support in all others while maintaining the respect we anticipate.

If we only focus on leading where it primarily works for our advantage at the expense of others, particularly evident in this global issue, we are undermining our own authority and the concrete leadership we wish to command. The movie touched not only on the consequences of global climate change, but also on how interconnected we truly are. This is most evident in the impact we as a global population have on the fragile ecosystem we inhabit. Gore answers many of the questions people ask and additionally points out that most of the discrepancy surrounding the question "Do humans actually cause global warming?" is found in the media and that among scientists and academics there is almost no disagreement on the affirmative answer.

It is the summer movie worth seeing, not because it's a blockbuster, although

that would be impressive, but because it raises awareness in a way that only quality cinema can. It shows Gore doing what he does best, and he is at his best. He may have lost the 2000 election, but he is dedicated to an issue that goes beyond politics, and it suits him. He argues that the fight for our home should not be manipulated by politics or an agenda, but rather seen as a moral responsibility that transcends all else. Gore does this with passion, carefully presented details, and the overall hope of motivating people everywhere to look at the data before it's too late to protect the planet for future generations. This should not be dubbed a Democratic or Republican movie, nor should it be the Al Gore movie. It should be an educational movie for it has a message for every person. Maybe, just maybe, public responsibility will rise and those who would be inconvenienced by spending a few extra minutes recycling or by remembering to turn off the lights will decide that any inconvenient truth this global requires dealing with its problematic reality. Perhaps I've come off sounding political in this, but the truth is I'm humbled by what I saw and this movie should not divide people nor become a political tool. It should unite us for the greatest fight we will face.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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***shape, shift, squish, and sculpt: 7/25-7/27***

***quill and ink lettering and design: 8/1-8/3***

***fantasy or reality? painting dreams: 8/8-8/10***

***secret treasure boxes: 8/15-8/17***

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## Board of Health Update on Animal Issues

First and foremost we welcome our newly appointed Animal Control Officer (ACO), Nora Hayes of Monterey.

The Monterey Board of Health, ACO, and Chief of Police all met recently to review the current procedures for animal calls. If you have any concerns regarding a potentially rabid animal, dog bites, nuisance animals, etc., you should call the Monterey Police Dispatch at **528-3211**. The ACO and Monterey Police will then be dispatched at the same time, and the scene will be assessed once they arrive. (Please note if you are reporting a nuisance wildlife concern, for instance a nest of squirrels in your attic, you will need to call a commercial trapper for assistance.)

As a reminder, the Monterey Bylaws, Article XII Sections 1-5 state:

**"Vaccination Requirements:** All owners/keepers of dogs and cats are required to keep current the rabies vaccination of their dogs and cats. Those who fail to maintain a current rabies vaccination will be subject to a fine of \$50. **Licensing Requirements:** All owners/keepers of dogs are required to license their dogs, presenting proof of valid vaccination against rabies to the Town Clerk. (License period shall be April 1 to March 31, both dates inclusive) Penalty for violation will be \$25.

**"Dogs Under Owner's Control:** All owners are required to keep their dogs under the owner's control at all times. A first-offense violation shall be subject to

a penalty of \$25. A second-offense violation shall be subject to a penalty of \$50. A third or subsequent violation shall be subject to a penalty of \$300.

**"Nuisances:** Any person who: 1. Is the owner/keeper of any dog who shall be found by an Animal Control Officer to have defecated on private property other than that of its owner/keeper or on a public way or on public lands without removal of fecal material; or 2. Is the owner/keeper of any dog who intentionally allows such animal to cause a nuisance by barking, howling or otherwise disturb another person's right to peace shall be subject to the following penalties: A first-offense violation shall be subject to a penalty of \$25. A second-offense violation shall be subject to a penalty of \$50. A third or subsequent violation shall be subject to a penalty of \$100.

**"Non-Criminal Disposition/Disclaimer Clause:** All penalties set forth hereinbefore shall be paid to the Town Clerk within twenty-one (21) days of notice of the offense. These bylaws shall be enforced by the Select Board through the Dog Officer or Police Officer of the Town of Monterey and shall be administered by MGL Chapter 40, Section 21D, on a non-criminal disposition.

**"Nothing contained within these bylaws shall limit or restrict any enforcement officer to seek criminal disposition of any violation of state or federal law."**

— Monterey Board of Health

## Monterey School News

For the 2006–2007 school year there is an unusually low census of kindergarten-age children, and only two registered for the Monterey School. Generally we have at least ten, of which a number are choiced in, bringing revenue to the school district. The kindergarten teachers, parents and superintendent of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District agreed to a creative solution for next year. We will expand the program to a combined kindergarten and first grade class. We are confident that the teachers will be able to meet the academic needs of this small but diverse group of students.

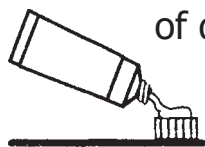
Can we continue to keep the school going with current population trends? The contract between Monterey and the SBRSD reads that the school shall not close unless the town agrees to a closure. The current Select Board strongly favors the school staying open. We need children to make this a practical reality for the future. The School Committee has agreed to the 06–07 plan for a combined K-1 but would like to see the number of pupils up to at least nine. As of this writing, it appears seven are registering for the fall.

If you would like to register your child or just want to inquire about this year or next, call the Administrative Assistant to the Elementary Principal, Terry Palfini, at 229-8754.

— Mary Makuc

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## Local Treasure: The Monterey School

Never mind what chests of doubloons might be found on the sea floor left behind by pirates or the unfortunates on the *Titanic* or the *Andrea Doria*. Sorry to take issue with the likes of the venerable *National Geographic*, but searching for treasure in exotic locales is overdramatic, overrated, and over-the-top. If it's treasure you seek, look no further than the modest white Greek Revival on Route 23 (aka Main Road) just past the Monterey General Store (our answer to Trader Joe's ... but that's another story). Atop the whitewashed clapboard the simple sign reads thus: **Monterey School.**

Indeed.

This compact emporium of education, I'm told, once serviced kindergarten through grade twelve. Such is no longer the case, and more is the pity. If only this were still available we would have our son enrolled there. Because, to paraphrase a book, many things of great value were learned in kindergarten. At least at the Monterey Kindergarten.

Back in about 1995–1996 my son and about eighteen other new lambs were being corralled by two pretty talented shepherds, Susan Andersen and Elaine Bertoli. These two have been manning (or rather womanning) the fort for quite some time if you consider the fact that my son is now entering his sophomore year of high school.

And, like something out of an enchanted story or the western Massachusetts version of *Goodbye Mr. Chips*, neither of these two seem to have aged. The kids of that time are now leggy, lanky, and involved in everything from Shakespeare to soccer, but Mrs. Bertoli and Mrs. Andersen are as youthful and energetic as if they have spent all of this time in Shangri-la. This makes a good case for teaching kindergarten. Or so it would seem.

Like great dancers, these two have made hard work look easy. Back then, what I recall was the way they were able to address many kids' individual needs and still encourage these disparate children to understand and cooperate with one another. Fast readers and nonreaders, budding athletes and ball-droppers, math prodigies and the numerically challenged all worked, played, learned together. In one room. At the same time. Somehow their teachers taught poetry and handled potty training at once, without a whole lot of electronic equipment, a gymnasium, or a cafeteria.

How did they do this?

Ah, that is the magical treasure of the Monterey School. You'd have to walk through that unimposing door, smell the perfume of crayons, damp wool, and floor wax to begin to know what can happen when you have gifted, tuned-in, smart, caring teachers focusing on each child and the sum total of the whole.

So stop digging for gold, rubies, diamonds! The real deal is just down the block. Thank you Monterey School for being our local treasure.

— M. E. Mishcon

## Memories of Monterey Kindergarten

I liked Monterey Kindergarten because Mrs. Andersen and Mrs. Bertoli were very nice and I liked marching in the parade.

— Hannah Mulvey (class of 2004)

I was a student at the Monterey Kindergarten between 1999 and 2000. When I was there, not one child seemed unhappy or disgruntled with the school, which provided and still provides an enjoyable quality education for children, consisting of an engaging curriculum rich in art, poetry memorization, and reading. For me, the best part of the school was the excellent teaching by Mrs. Andersen and Mrs. Bertoli.

I hope that the Monterey Kindergarten continues to provide schooling for years to come.

— Jonah Carlson

As of this summer, I have experienced seven full years of schooling in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Out of all the teachers I have met and all of the classrooms I have been nurtured in, one small school and two extraordinary educators have built a solid foundation for my complete academic life.

I began my journey in learning at the Monterey Kindergarten at the age of five. On starting school, I was a very shy and timid girl. I did not know very many people who were attending class along with me, and I flew solo and kept business

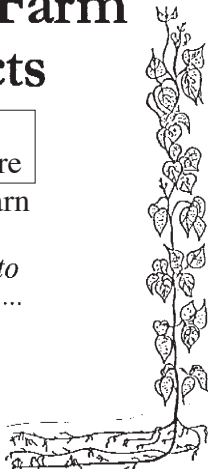
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to myself for a while. Mrs. Andersen and Mrs. Bertoli, the only staff in the building, created a comfortable environment for my classmates and me by constructing a repetitive routine that we followed each day. As a small child, it felt safe to know what my day would consist of and in what order those activities would come. As the schedule became more and more familiar to me, I learned to find friends and open up a little bit.

At the Monterey School, my days contained both work and creative play. Mrs. Andersen, my primary teacher, presented to me the love of reading, a priceless gift. I was taught simple math skills—counting, addition, and subtraction—that my mathematics classes for the last six years have been based on. In addition to this, I was given time to play house, draw out stories, build with blocks, and freely run around out of doors. My mind expanded with knowledge of basic learning skills and imaginative thoughts of my own.

One experience from the Monterey Kindergarten which I will never forget was my first real performance. During my year there, Mrs. Andersen and Mrs. Bertoli helped our class learn and memorize various poetic pieces composed by famous writers. Near the end of the year, we were given the opportunity to take part in a poetry recital that was complete with

costumes and acting roles. This event was the beginning of a string of different shows and performances that I have taken roles in for several years.

This tiny but valuable community known as the Monterey Kindergarten has played a vital role in who I am today and what I will become. As this small school has done so much for me, this is my way of saying thank you and attempting to give it just a little something back.

— Gabriella Rose Makuc

Monterey Kindergarten was for me: homey, kind, gentle, fun, learning for the first time, reading your first word, playing kickball, meeting lifelong friends, cozy, comfortable, snug, secure, growing up, amusing, entertaining, memorable, special, different, individualized, caring, playing with Legos, drawing with crayons, learning to share, the rooms, the people inside them, the teachers, the students, the absolute positive definite best place to be sent to kindergarten.

Susan Andersen, the teacher at Monterey Kindergarten, makes the place special. Through hard work and dedication she has made what could have been a normal small satellite school into a fantastic place. Let's hold onto a good thing, and support Mrs. Andersen and the Monterey Kindergarten as much as we can.

— Buddy Ferris (class of 1996)

What I remember most about the Monterey School was the poetry recitals and going to the library. I still remember that I got to be Mustard the dog in the recital. My favorite part of the week was

getting to walk down to the library to pick out our own books.

— Dinah Mielke (senior, Mt. Everett Regional High School)

The things I remember most about the Monterey School are hopscotch on the front pavement outside the doorway, recess, and reading time. I also loved being able to march in the Memorial Day parade.

— 1/c Claire Mielke (United States Coast Guard Academy)

"Mrs. Andersen, my Mom said I could walk home from school today." And so, as the other kids boarded the little yellow bus, I headed off on foot. It was a distance that could be measured in yards as I could practically see my house from the Monterey Kindergarten. But to a recently turned six-year-old on a beautiful late spring day, it was a rite of passage. Walking home from school. Wow.

I walked along the top of the stone wall (checking carefully for snakes), climbed over the General Knox monument and jumped to the road. Being careful to stay on the left side of the white line painted on the road (this gave me literally two to three inches of pavement—I pretended it was a balance beam), I passed the small firehouse with its yellow siren on the roof. Across the street was Walsh's—where you could not only get your car fixed, you could buy soda and candy, fill your car with gas, and get a haircut. And then up the bank, through the shrubs, and I was home.

There were at least seven other girls and a handful of boys, all from Monterey,

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in my class. Of course, my clearest memories are from playing outdoors during recess. The swings were made of heavy red canvas and were taken in every day to protect them from the weather. There was always a scramble as the girls raced to the utility closet to grab one of the four swings before lining up for recess. The hill was much bigger then, and only the brave rolled down. The rest of us were content to run down as fast as we could. The tree at the top had a trunk large enough to hide a few of us girls as we held secret meetings discussing who knows what.

The pasture next door was inhabited by Dick Tryon's cows, which often came over to stick their heads over the barbed wire fence looking for attention. Our family German shepherd named Rigi came down to play daily. On nice days, storytime was outside.

We all loved our Mrs. Andersen, who could do anything and everything. Other teachers came once or twice a week for extra activities. Mr. Lampman played the piano and led us in song, Mr. Pavoni instructed "gym" and Mrs. Drew taught art. We kids delighted in her name, and we wondered if I was destined to be a chef. On many Tuesday mornings we lined up and walked down to the library, where we chose the books to be borrowed.

The highlights of the year were marching in the Memorial Day Parade and walking down to Greene Park for a picnic on the last day of the year. Watching the Monterey School kids march in the parade this year and then seeing them picnic at Greene Park a few weeks later, brings back these beloved memories. Kids may not walk home from school anymore, but our Monterey Kindergarten continues to be a treasured place where hundreds of kids experience their own rites of passage.

— Mari (Makuc) Enoch (class of yore)

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## From the Meeting House . . .

I arrived in Monterey in mid June and one of my initial encounters in town involved a black bear. I was jogging when one calmly crossed the road in front of me, caught my gaze, and continued into the woods. I have since heard that such a sighting is not entirely unusual in this area. I recalled that bunkmates had a similar sighting not far from here at the camp where I spent summers when I was younger. I was born and raised a New Englander but I've spent most of the past year in Los Angeles, where it was more likely for a celebrity to cross my path than a bear.

I feel a little like Dorothy upon arrival in the Land of Oz: "Toto, I don't think we are in Kansas anymore." I'm not in California anymore. I know I'm back east for the summer when I feel warmly greeted by the moist temperature, the abundance of green in the landscape, the striking storms, and the friendly introductions in town, church, and farm. Later during her journey an exasperated Dorothy repeats, "Lions, tigers, and bears, oh my!" I haven't encountered any lions or tigers yet and don't suppose that I will. However, I do sense we are like Dorothy and her friends, the Tin Man, Scarecrow, and Lion, who on their search for home, heart, mind, and courage, found they carried what they were looking for within themselves and in the connections between each other.

Upon seeing the bear, the camp counselor side of me first assessed the safety of the situation. Then, the spiritual seeker side of me thought that such a sighting must mean something special. Could there be

something auspicious about seeing a bear upon arriving in a new town at the start of a season? Summer is often the shortest and potentially sweetest of seasons, and the time is ripe for surprises, for the unexpected to cross our paths. While the humid heat becomes a crucible for our prayerful introspection, the lakes, land, and moments of leisure become our watershed of possibility. And the creatures that cross our paths—cows, bears, frogs, snakes, and fireflies—bring us great wisdom about our relationships with one another and the qualities we carry within ourselves.

As summer begins, memories from the years when I was a camper and counselor at camp here in the Berkshires linger. At graces in the dining hall and at chapel-by-the-lake, we used to sing a beloved round called "Love": "Love, love, love, love, people this is your call, love one another as I love you for God loves us all." I'm often washed over by a wave of nostalgia at the turning of each season. Yet at the same time, I'm keenly aware that each cycle around the calendar provides countless opportunities for transformation, for what is new to enter our lives, take hold, and release us into a lasting and sustaining peace for which our own hearts and world so desperately hunger. This evening as I write and feel a cool breeze come through the window after a hot day, I softly hum the tune from my younger years, as its echo resounds still.

— Elizabeth Barnum

*Elizabeth Barnum, M.Div., is Interim Pastor at the Monterey United Church of Christ while the Rev. Elizabeth Goodman is on maternity leave through September.*

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## Like a Phoenix

### *Manduca quinquemaculata* in the Kitchen

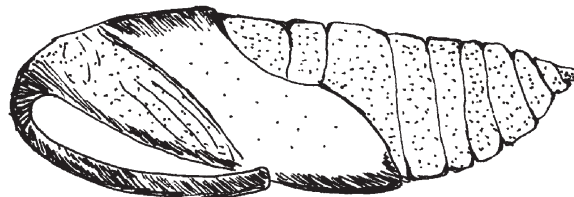
If my indoor experiment is any indication of outdoor reality, the flight of the new generation of hawk moths has begun. They have come up out of the dirt, following an event known as "eclosion," spread their long strong wings and gone hovering over our flower gardens, sipping nectar through impossibly thin, curled proboscises. If you have not used the word "eclosion" before, this is your chance. It is a process we humans cannot enjoy directly since it is only available to insects. As a species we are not given metamorphosis as a personal experience in our lifetime (maybe later ...) but we have something else that may be even more transforming. We have imagination.

For weeks I have been imagining, hoping, dreaming that something big and unlikely would happen on my kitchen counter. It is not a big counter and yet it has been home, since October '05, to a large plastic container full of dirt and two pupae. They went in as larvae in the fall, dug down out of sight, and were transformed from bright green caterpillars into rich brown pupae. This was the first major change for my two

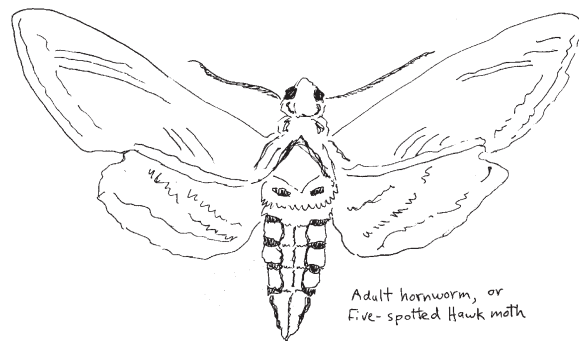
tomato hornworms. I did not get to see it, but I experienced it anyway through my imagination. All winter as I dried and stacked the dishes I made restricted use of that kitchen counter and imagined pupal doings. I also imagined failure.

In the fall when I put the marvelous creatures in their habitat, I knew I was tampering with a perfect system, one I could only make worse. We heat our house with wood and the atmosphere is very dry, so I watered the dirt from time to time, hoping I wasn't drowning the pupae. I wondered if their development depended upon freezing temperatures the way it is with some seeds. Then I thought about all the hornworms in southern states. They get to their eclosion without freezing. On the other hand, mine were not southerners. I knew the whole thing was a risky business.

My family was tolerant about the counter space. As we moved into May and the plants outside popped up, I became convinced my hornworms had perished, victims (like so many innocent individuals) of scientific meddling. Had I learned anything? Enough to justify their deaths and possible suffering?



Tomato hornworm pupa - underground all winter



Adult hornworm, or Five-spotted Hawk moth

The day I decided to dig up their remains and reclaim the counter, I was amazed to see movement on top of the dirt. It looked like an animated piece of bark in there, fluttering in fits and starts.

"Oh yes," said a daughter calmly, "I just noticed that this morning."

What a remarkable thing! The very day I had decided to end the experiment for all of us. I was elated, but only for a minute or so. The poor moth was deformed, its wings crinkled up and useless. Had I watered it too much? Not enough? Should

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I have provided some sort of stick for it to climb up after eclosion so it could shake and tremble its new wings, pumping fluid through its veins as they stretched and grew? I have watched monarch butterflies do this.

My path was clear. Mercy killing was in order, but somehow I could not hurry to this. I held the moth and was startled by its large dark eyes. We humans imagine large dark eyes to be soulful, gentle, sorrowful. I saw its proboscis, curled in a perfect circle at the ready for a dusk flight to the nearest appropriate nectar meal, a flight that could never be. The abdomen was thick and sturdy, with rounded rectangular orange spots on every segment; if it were a female, the abdomen would be full of eggs. My fingers itched; I wanted to know.

The crumpled wings were soft browns and beige, with dark bars and lines reminding me of a barred owl or a great horned owl. In fact, the wings of these big moths are soft and furry like those of an owl. They provide camouflage against tree-bark and the moth overall has several V-shaped markings, as do some owls, which help it to disappear against a tree, just like the owls.

My examination complete, I made a respectful farewell and relieved this moth of its earthly cares. As I did so I was amazed once more: to squeeze this creature was very like taking hold of a barberry twig! At

## Dual Homeowners Corner

We started the transition from Montclair to Monterey by attending the annual Lake Buel Restoration/Preservation District meeting at the meetinghouse on the Saturday before Memorial Day. It was wonderful to meet old friends and to renew connections while receiving an update on lake business. Two of our

the joints, its two pairs of hind legs were set up with stout thorns, about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long. The moth was armed, but for what? To keep big night birds from making a meal of it? In some animals the males are equipped with claspers to hold themselves in place during mating, but these little spears were not curved at all.

So imagination and curiosity propel me on in my search for understanding of the life of *Manduca quinquemaculata*. My next study needs to be an ethological one, the nightly stakeout near some petunias or phlox. Night ethologists sleep by day and keep a red flashlight handy after dark. No more kitchen counter work for me, and no more speculation. It's time to enter the world of the five-spotted hawkmoth to find out what those leg armaments are all about. Probably I should have a camouflage coat and big brown eyes, for night work.

— Bonner J. McAllester

friends, Roger and Carol Kane, who are long-term vacation and holiday residents, said that they love to be in Monterey, but generally come here on weekends and have not been able to obtain a transfer station sticker on a Saturday morning. To them, sending a stamped self-addressed envelope is not as easy as just dropping by, and the residents who are at work are similarly inconvenienced. They would appreciate it if the town would return to the old process of being able to get these stickers in person on Saturday mornings. Is there some way that this problem could be resolved?

We are taking the boats back to the shoreline, putting in the docks, and arranging the chairs. Our grandsons swam in Lake Buel after they helped Grandpa take the rowboat out of the shed. They also tried out the fishing poles and caught several fish. The summer season has started for us even if the calendar does not agree.

Any other dual homeowners who have questions or issues should please let me know and I can add it to this monthly column.

— Barbara Haver



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## Falcons, Falconry, and Falconidae

The falcon is one of the most proficient birds of prey, with long pointed wings and a long tail. A raptor, it is able to catch its prey on the wing. The most common one here is a kestrel or sparrow hawk. It is also the smallest and its diet often includes large insects. Most people are very interested in predatory birds; the Birds Of Prey Demonstration Day at the Bidwell House Museum several years ago broke all the records for attendance.

The kestrel is one of ten members of the Falconidae family. The peregrine falcon is larger, able to attain 175 miles per hour when diving to knock its target out of the sky. When it catches another bird, it plucks the feathers out before eating it. Peregrines inhabit cities, where they keep the pigeon population under control. They move so fast across the sky that you have to look quickly to see them.

The gyrfalcon is the largest, standing two feet tall, with a four-foot wingspan, and from a distance looks like a snowy

owl, except it has a hawk-like falcon-hooded-shaped head, with a notched beak. Coming down from the Arctic tundra, it transforms through three color morphs, gray, brown in spring and summer, and then white when it gets here for winter. Like the snowy owl, it appears only intermittently, not necessarily as an annual migration. The first sighting of the year is late October, and to see one is very much a random throw of the dice.

Audubon reports of gyrfalcons are more likely first along the North Shore of Boston in Essex County and around the Plum Island Wildlife Reserve. Like bald eagles they seem to follow shorelines, feeding on ducks, gulls, and vermin. In another month they might appear along the edges of Quabbin Reservoir. When one does reach this area, so far south and inland, it raises what is called a rare bird sighting alert. The director of Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Rene Laubach, as well as Pittsfield resident David St. James, a well-known maven of rare sightings, both traveled to Pine Plains New York to confirm the last sighting years ago.



Today the official mascot of the Air Force Academy in Colorado is the gyrfalcon, pronounced Grr-Falcon. In medieval times of the practice of falconry (keeping hawks for hunting), the ownership of a gyrfalcon was reserved for kings. The mysterious unpredictability of its occurrence here, possibly having to do with when food is lacking in the far north, makes one feel fortunate to witness what might be called a phantom of our bird world.

— George Emmons



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## Down the Road and Across the Way: David's Tipi

Ten years ago this summer (call it divine intervention or just plain dumb luck), I found myself in a little wooden cottage on a peaceful road in this unknown community of Monterey. I was quick to learn that the pasture I could see from my front window, complete with horse, pony, and goats, belonged to the McAllester/Baker clan and that down the road and across the way stood the homestead of well-known elder David McAllester. Since I had met Susan and David some years earlier at a Quaker gathering it felt as if this was a celestial sign that I had finally transplanted myself in just the right place.

Seasons passed and this "recovering city girl" began learning how to tell time differently. For instance, with the somewhat whimsical appearance of sap buckets strung like Chinese lanterns all up and down the road, I could begin to believe endless winter was actually going to end. And when white canvas flesh suddenly covered the scrawny bones of David McAllester's tipi, I know that summer had officially come to the Berkshires.

One year a girlfriend brought her two young daughters to visit. After a quick call to David, we all trotted down the road and across the way. Is that smoke? Sure enough, as we shyly approached the

opening, there inside the tipi sat David, happily stoking a twig and leaf fire, singing the oddest sounding song my ears had ever heard. It was really hard to tell if these unfamiliar sounds were produced in his throat or whether there were other Navajo elders hidden among us, busily chanting away but we just couldn't see them? I'll never know for sure, but what we did come to appreciate that day was how the tops of tipis, like sails on a sailboat, work perfectly with wind and rain, warmth and cold. A tipi is truly a home for all seasons.

More seasons passed and the rhythm of country life slowly became my music too. One very early October morning—misty and mystical as only a mountain morning can be—I spontaneously armed myself with camera and walked straight down the road and across the way to David's. I carefully eased myself over the rugged embankment and stealthily settled into the tall autumn grasses. Suddenly the rumor I had once overheard came to mind and I asked myself, "Is it true that David sometimes sleeps in his tipi?" Uh-oh I'm now an intruder, uninvited and probably unwelcome! Feeling myself on borrowed time I swiftly surveyed the scene, then carefully (with an artist's not a hunter's eye) I aimed and shot—one picture only. Then as fast as I could I beelined back to home, not wanting to be discovered trespassing.



To my greatest relief, when I sheepishly presented David with a copy of this picture, he was delighted! He loved it and flattered me even more by

claiming that it had somehow captured the beauty and soul of his beloved tipi like none other of the hundreds of pictures he himself had taken over the years. I learned only recently from family that he hung that picture over his desk and often gazed up at it whenever he sat working.

I would like to believe that as David lay quietly taking his final leave of this world he was enjoying a gentle stream of images of the many people, places, and events that had meant so much to him in this lifetime. I'm hoping also that he could see and enjoy his beautiful tipi standing tall and stoic and ghostly white against the grass, a home for all seasons and one you can tuck up and take with you as you go ...

Journey well dear friend and neighbor. We will all remember you with great affection.

— Eileen Lawlor

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### No Dogs on Beach

To The Editor:

Summer is once again in full swing and many of us are heading to the beach. Please leave your dogs at home. There are good reasons for doing so.

Zoonotic disease, which include avian influenza and rabies, are ones transmitted from animals to people. Diseases such as cutaneous larval migrans, visceral larval migrans, giardia, and leptospirosis are also zoonotic, and all can come from our dogs. Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection transmitted through urine, while the other three are transmitted via parasites in fecal contamination. If a dog carrying one of these organisms soils on the beach or in the water, the organism potentially could infect a human. Children, the elderly, and those who are immune suppressed are at particular risk. People have died from leptospirosis infections, and children have lost eyes due to larval migrans infestations. Zoonotic transmission is not confined just to the beach. You should work with your veterinarian to try to minimize these infectious diseases in your dogs.

Zoonosis aside, other reasons to keep dogs off beaches are the risks of dog bites; also, some people are afraid of them. The beach can be a very active place and can present an uncontrolled environment for a normally well-behaved dog. Unfortunately, sometimes a dog's protective instinct is to bite. Even a minor bite can leave a lasting scar both physically and psychologically. As a parent and a dog owner, I would not want to be on either end of such a situation.

Please respect the rule. There should be NO EXCEPTIONS. This rule is in effect twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Even though there may not be any people around for your dog to frighten or bite, it still could leave something behind. Keep in mind that if a zoonotic disease is present at the beach, your own dog is probably most at risk for contracting the infection.

So come to the beach, bring your kids, enjoy the water and friends, but please, leave your dog home.

— John Makuc, DVM

### Beach Problems

To the Editor:

*Below is a letter I sent to the Park Commission.*

I, along with my husband Ian and our two daughters, reside at Brookmead Farm on New Marlborough Road in Monterey. We have spent summers and weekends in Monterey for the past six years.

I have concerns regarding the town beach at Lake Garfield. When we were first looking for a home in the Berkshires, the town beach at Lake Garfield was one of the most important amenities that attracted us to Monterey. It seemed an oasis of tranquility and civility that made Monterey all the more attractive.

From what I have been able to find out ours is the only beach in the area that does not restrict parking. Because of this the beach is becoming **dangerously** overcrowded. The Red Lion sends their guests, the Half Moon campers have their cookouts at our beach, tradesmen park their work vehicles for lunch, and in a local (and popular) guide to the Berkshires ours is listed as a public beach great for picnics. Aside from destroying the peace and tranquility of a beautiful local resource, the town is forced to accept the increased liability caused by the large number of people at the beach.

The large crowds, speeding traffic and generally unpleasant conditions are destroying one of our most beautiful natural resources and the enjoyment of the beach by Monterey residents. I have stopped going to the beach on weekends because I cannot get a parking space!

I would like to encourage the town leadership to address these issues before we lose what is one of the most pleasant aspects of summer life in Monterey.

— Christa Lindsay



### Stone Walls around Town

To the Editor:

We here in Monterey are blessed with an abundance of rocks. Rocks are handsome and durable. Many of our rocks are part of our human history and have seen action and been of significance to people here for hundreds of years. They line our old fields and roadways, reminding us that our forbears were farmers who cleared the land by hand and fenced in livestock before the days of wire fencing. These stone walls keep us connected to our past and they are just plain handsome.

Many of us landholders are landscape architects at heart and we love to build with rocks. It is often tempting to take advantage of the work of our predecessors and make use of the rocks in the stone walls, especially the top stones, which are often large and flat, easy to build with.

Where these walls occur within our private property this is a personal call: to remove, rebuild, redefine with stones. But where they line the roadsides or ring the cemeteries, the historic stones are not available for public use except to enjoy them as they are, in place. In the third week of June many fine top stones disappeared from the wall at the Mt. Hunger Cemetery, a peaceful and historic spot loved by so many in this community. Perhaps the person who took them thought they were public property, or that the place was abandoned. The cemetery belongs to the town, as do the roadsides. The land surrounding the Mt. Hunger Cemetery is part of Beartown State Forest. These lands, state forest and town property, are indeed public resources for all to enjoy. But this does not include taking any part of them home. This is a form of stealing: from one's neighbors, from generations to come, from the stories told by the place where we live.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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## Our Lady of the Hills Opens for Season

The Roman Catholic Chapel, Our Lady of the Hills on Beartown Mountain Road, is now open for the summer. Masses are on Saturdays at 7 p.m. in July and August.

## The Observer May 26 – June 25

High temp. (6/19)..... 87°  
Low temp. (6/11)..... 45°  
Avg. high temp. .... 74.8°  
Avg. low temp. .... 53.5°  
Avg. temp. .... 64.2°  
Total rainfall..... 6.41 in.  
Precipitation occurred on 20 days.

## Monterey Youth Baseball

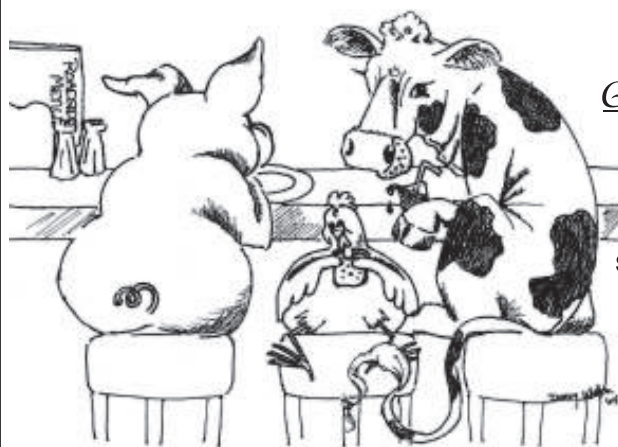
The regular league season for Monterey Youth Baseball recently concluded. The two Monterey teams, the Twisters and the Tornados compiled a record of 14 wins and 3 losses against teams from Lee, Lenox, Lanesborough, and Williamstown. Twelve of the 17 games were played at Greene Park in Monterey. The Tornados and the Twisters also played each other several times during April, May, and June.

It was also a successful and fun season for the youngest group, ages 5–7. Over 25 boys and girls participated.

Summer baseball for those 8–11 who want to continue to play begins July 6, Thursday, from 6:30–8 p.m. at Greene Park. For information, e-mail Jim Edelman at [cljvedelman@aol.com](mailto:cljvedelman@aol.com).

— Jim Edelman

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